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THE MUSKET

Lexington High School's Student-run Newspaper — since 1969

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Security cameras soon to be a part of LHS culture

By Susmita Gadre & Stephanie Atwood
Layout Coordinator & Staff Writer

A new technology will soon be a part of the Lexington High School community. According to Principal Natalie Cohen, about 120 security cameras will be installed in all four buildings of Lexington High School over winter break. Specific locations will not be revealed, but "[the cameras] are not going to be in any places that you would consider private." While the cameras will be discreet, they will only be installed in public places where people can already see each other. Cameras will not be in the bathroom, but in areas such as commons, hallways, and stairwells.

The intent behind the cameras is not necessarily to catch students breaking rules, but rather to catch any outside suspicious activity that might be taking place around campus. These cameras will not be like those in the movies, with a live feed being constantly monitored by a police officer. Although they will always be recording, they will only be viewed if the need arises, such as repeated reports of theft, bullying, vandalism, or break-ins.

The issues of theft and fights have been around for years — so what caused the administration to decide to implement these new security measures this year? According to Ms. Cohen, the school committee pledged six years ago that security cameras would be installed in all the Lexington Public Schools as soon as enough money became available. Recently, the district acquired a security grant of $250,000, and the administration felt that the installation of cameras on the high school campus would be the perfect way to make use of the money. This installation is a good investment, as it will make Lexington High School a safer environment for students and faculty alike, says Principal Cohen.

Staff photo by Chris Alessandrini

One of two signs anonymously put up at the far end of the second floor stairwell in the Arts & Humanities building remind passersby that security cameras will be installed in January.

While the higher-ups at LHS clearly see the benefits of installing security cameras, the teachers and students have had mixed reactions. Rumors have been spreading all around the school as to what will and will not be occurring. While the majority of teachers and students seemed to know

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Internet content filters installed in compliance with government

By Zach Sabin
Staff Writer

Lexington High School has implemented a content filter for the school Internet this year. The new filter monitors all traffic from the school computers and blocks websites deemed inappropriate for school.

The new content filter is made by a company called Cymphonix. The solution that LHS uses is known as the Network Composer. There is a box situated in between the school computers and the Internet, and this box is the main part of the Network Composer.

Besides filtering web pages, the Network Composer serves many other functions. It serves as an antivirus, protecting school computers from malicious software. It can also control the bandwidth, or speed of Internet, that each computer in the school receives. It reports various statistics about network usage, including what web pages are visited and bandwidth usage by various users and computers.

The implementation of this software is required by a government act known as the "Children's Internet Protection Act" (CIPA). This act was proposed by senator John McCain in 1999 and passed Congress in 2000. The law mandates that schools must block "access to pictures that are: (a) obscene, (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors..." It also says that schools must keep minors from accessing inappropriate content on the Internet and must keep them safe when they are using e-mail, online chat, or other forms of communication online. The school must also prevent hacking and the release of minors' personal information.

According to Principal Cohen, "Non-compliance with the law means that Lexington would be prevented from accessing federal grants that we need to increase our technological infrastructure." By following the CIPA, the school opens themselves up to receive grants by a government program known as E-rate, or Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund. E-rate is a government program that gives money to schools and libraries in order to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

The school's new network

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Inside policy debating

By Anubhav Jain
Staff Writer

On October 25, 2009, Arjun Vellayappan and Tyler Engler became the first Lexington debate team to qualify for the Debate Tournament of Champions (TOC) by making it to the octafinals at the St. Mark's Tournament in Texas.

Vellayappan and Engler received their first bid to the TOC at the Georgetown Day School Tournament in Washington DC by making it to the quarterfinals. Vellayappan and Engler are two of about 50 other policy debaters at our school; policy debate is one of the three types of debate in which the Lexington Debate Team takes part. An LHS debater described policy debate as "fast and unrelenting, policy debate is an activity that masterfully blends research with persuasion."

Policy debaters argue one issue for the entire year, so the team does a lot of research to cover every possible argument. Thus, each partnership of debaters carries around "tubs" filled with evidence to each tournament, so as to be prepared for any arguments with which they could be faced.

Prior to October 25th, other Lexington teams had also qualified for the Tournament of Champions. On October 18th, Ayan Sanyal and Amrit Kanesa-Thasan got a bid to the TOC at the Bronx Science High School Tournament. Because so many debate teams advanced in the competition, the Lexington Policy Debate team became the premier policy team in the country.

At the same tournament, another Lexington team got a bid to the TOC. Mark Chonofsky and Kelly Miao, two Public

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FILTER cont. from PAGE 1

filter has come under some controversy. One issue is that it blocks many websites that should not be blocked, such as Yahoo Groups and certain online email services. There have also been reports of the filter blocking Google searches of controversial topics.

Another concern that has been raised is the privacy of those surfing the Internet. One of the features of the Network Filter is that it can record which websites students access or attempt to access. This information is available to any administrator of the filter. It can also record Instant Message conversations of certain programs, including AOL messenger and Windows Live messenger. This information is also available to any administrator of the filter. While it is unlikely that the admistrators will read private conversations, the fact that they can goes to show that this filter is monitoring all the words one types.

Student opinions on this filter ranged greatly. "It's understandable, but I don't like it," said student Brian Evans. "What LHS student would?" However, one student, who asked not to be named, thought that the filter "is wasteful, because anyone can bypass it easily." Many students didn't even care, as the filter does not block Facebook or many other popular websites such as YouTube. However users of Myspace will be disappointed, as that website is blocked because it provides dating services.

The network filter rollout has been a success, although many students do not think it should be implemented.

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that LHS would be getting security cameras, none of the people who were interviewed appeared to know specific details. Some knew that there would be around 100-150 cameras installed. Ms. Murphy, head of the foreign language department, knew that installing cameras had been in the minds of the administration for years.

Upon receiving accurate details of the upcoming installation, the students and faculty responded in various ways. A junior and a science teacher, who both wish to remain anonymous, question the impact these cameras will have. The junior stated that the cameras seemed "like a valiant effort, but the number [of cameras planned to be installed sounds] over the top." Others, such as Mandarin teacher Mrs. Li, had more positive views. She argues that if people know that the cameras are being placed all over the school, "bad people will be discouraged from coming." Gavin Lewis, a sophomore, thought that potential thieves would be put off by the cameras' abilities to record and replay their actions to authorities.

Come January, if all goes as planned, security cameras will be placed all over the high school campus. Will they make a difference? The school administration thinks they will, and now all we can do is wait and see.

Please remember to recycle your Musket *newspaper.*

ACTIVBOARDS cont. from PAGE 4

Dr. Fiveash and Ms. Girondel learned about the ActivBoard from a former colleague in early 2008, they applied for the money to purchase two boards. The grant they wrote, which included two boards, training, installation, and speakers, totaled approximately $18,000.

In addition to the financial disadvantage of the ActivBoard, using the software can be time-consuming at first. Ms. Trombetta, who has only been using her ActivBoard for a few months, admitted that "it [takes] a little extra planning, but it's planning that I'll have every year… in the long run, it really will help me out."

Despite these drawbacks, the four teachers all agreed that using the ActivBoard has been a decisively positive and engaging experience. "I love making flipcharts," said Ms. Girondel. "I love thinking up ways to teach things." Ms. Girondel also appreciates that the ActivBoard saves both "a lot of repetition" and "a lot of paper."

According to teachers, the ActivBoard saves paper, time, and teaching effort, helping students learn.

FARM cont. from PAGE 4

On the website, in articles and letters to "The Minuteman" and on its Facebook group, the coalition is fielding questions from residents regarding the benefits of local produce and what a community farm would actually entail.

LCFC differentiates between a community garden and a farm, for example. The website's FAQ page defines the former as "a site where individuals or households can rent small plots for their personal use", while "a community farm is a place where people work together to grow food for other people– enough food to feed communities, not just themselves or their families". The website lists examples of successful community farms in neighboring towns, citing them as a precedent for both sustainable food production and citizen participation.

The suggestion comes at a time of heightened attention to the need for environmentally sustainable food sources. The public has begun to focus on the produce industry as one of the few that communities can supply on their own without too great an expenditure. Documentaries, books, news media, and blogs promoting local eating have generated greater awareness of the issue. CSA, or community support agriculture, has especially attracted young Americans to buy shares from local farms.

So far, feedback from residents indicates a strong interest in the farm. Of the 255 votes cast in an online poll by "The Minuteman," 84% responded that a community farm would benefit Lexington. LCFC primarily supports a plan to create a farm, but the group's desire to have the farm serve as a community center has made it open to the possibility of a combination of a farm and affordable housing on the Busa property.

Ultimately, the town planning board will make the decision as to how this land will be used. LCFC member Meg Muckenhoupt says she hopes the best for the farm, but it is most important for the decision-making process to be open and fair and to take into consideration the interests of the entire community.

DEBATE cont. from **PAGE 1**

Forum debaters, made it to the quarterfinals, further helping their chances of making it to Tournament of Champions. They officially qualified for TOC two weeks later by making it to the quarterfinals elimination round at the Manchester Essex tournament. Samantha Segall and Brendan Schneiderman made it to the semifinals at the Manchester Tournament, as well as to the octafinals at the Yale Tournament.

Public Forum Debate is a newer type of debate, in which the partners discuss one resolution for a month, and then move onto another topic. Out of the three types of debate in which Lexington participates, it is the slowest in terms of talking speed.

The last type of debate in which the Lexington Debate Team takes part is Lincoln Douglas Debate. Lincoln Douglas debate is a form of debate in which everyone debates individually. Lincoln Douglas arguments can be analytic, unlike Public Forum and Policy Debate. At the Manchester tournament, Noah Star won the whole Lincoln Douglas division. He was also the first speaker at the tournament.

Another succesful event was Little Lex, which occured the weekend of November 21st.

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with just one thing, you can become extremely good at it" Ryan advises. "If you concentrate then you can make it the best it can be."

Ryan enjoys each day in her shop.

"The crowd in Lexington is really nice and very sincere," she feels. "They're not difficult at all. We felt very welcomed here... it was wonderful. Each day, I never cease to be amazed."

Going into the store itself, the customer, too, feels welcomed. The cupcakes look extremely inviting and Ryan and her staff are friendly and helpful. The store's scrumptious aura is the result of hard work and proof that following one's dream can lead to inspiring results.

MOLLY cont. from PAGE 6

Meaghan Murphy, a current senior and co-captain of the LHS volleyball team, described Molly as an "inspiring [and] enthusiastic role model."

Murphy smiled as she recalled memories shared with Eisenberg: "She was the epitome of an amazing captain. She really loved volleyball, and she wanted everyone to love it just as much as she did ... I owe a lot of the player that I am today to Molly."

Despite the sadness that is undeniably accompanied with the remembrance of Molly's death, Molly has left the Lexington community with a gift; she was a beautiful daughter, athlete, and friend, and she truly lived her life to the fullest. Forever young, Molly Eisenberg will always live on in our hearts.

WRESTLING cont. from PAGE 6

8 points", giving the team 4 points. A "tech-fall" is when "a wrestler is up by 15 or more points," causing the match to cease, and giving the winner's team 5 points. During practices, wrestlers learn different maneuvers to pin their opponent, and wrestlers fill some of their time off the mats with strength and endurance training.

"If you're small, you can step on the wrestling mat and be the biggest man out there," Jackan said, offering his beliefs on wrestling. "If you win a match, all the glory is yours because you know that it was your own sweat and hard work that earned the victory … no matter how far down you are you can still win your match if you pin your opponent."

THE MUSKET

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Policy about skateboards is outdated

By Ben Robertson
Staff Writer

I've always been a skateboarding enthusiast; for a brief spell I tried my luck at it, but that resulted in a full-length arm cast. Still, my love for skateboarding remained, despite my inabilities to master the skill.

Since its inception, the sport has been banned in almost every public place. Our high school is no exception: if anyone is caught skateboarding on campus, the school reserves the right to discipline the student as they see fit; on the third offense, the school may even confiscate the skateboard and withhold it for a full year. This outdated rule should be updated. Skating as a sport has grown in the past years; skateboarders have shown their passion and commitment to the sport. So why is it that we still yield to the rules that were written for a generation that came so long before ours?

One issue that has remained the same regarding skateboarding is safety. I'd agree that banning skateboarding is the safest measure to reduce the risk of an injury occurring on school grounds– but administration and faculty choose to bash skateboarding for reasons other than student safety.

Many LHS faculty members consider skateboarding an unnecessary distraction to students. It is a violation of school rules, but to be unnecessarily declared as a distraction is simply ridiculous. What does the administration consider to be a "distraction?" Skateboarding, cell phones (both can be confiscated)... but what else? Ultimately, any hobby or activity that draws students' focus away from schoolwork can be considered a "distraction." Food, hackey sacks, leisure books, footballs, fellow students, and even one's own imagination can be deemed "distractions."

[T]he school reserves the right to ... confiscate the skateboard and withhold it for a full year.

Students who discover passion within themselves through skateboarding should not be made to feel as though their love for the sport is unauthorized. Confiscating a student's property and only returning it to them at the end of the year is wrong.

I believe that the bill regarding skateboarding restrictions should be updated so that confiscation of skateboards lasts for the school day and the following school day as well, but not for an entire year. Skateboarding is a seasonal sport and withholding it even with snow on the ground teaches skaters nothing.

Comic by senior Rachel Wang

Benefits of allowing wireless internet access in school outweigh drawbacks

By Noah Star
Op/Ed Editor

Technological advancements of the past decade, such as wireless internet, have made their way into nearly every aspect of society. One can enter into a Starbucks or even an airplane and access wireless Internet through their laptops or cell phones. Now these innovations have begun to seep into the Lexington Public School System via our new laptops and computers. With all these new purchases, the next logical step seems to be the implementation of wireless internet throughout the school.

To students, the idea of "Wi-Fi," as it is colloquially called, is met with enthusiasm and joy. When asked how wireless internet would be beneficial to him, Ben Berners-Lee, a sophomore, responded:

"As a member of the LHS policy debate team, I know that a student Wi-Fi system would allow for in-library research time, with the convenience and effectiveness of using my own computer. Similarly, student Wi-Fi would take a burden off of 'on-paper' assignments. Students could check their teacher's blog, many of which already exist, to get an assignment, and then email the teacher the completed assignment."

The academic benefits of the implementation of student Wi-Fi are numerous, as illustrated by Berners-Lee. First Class is already utilized by many teachers, but students are not always able to access computers or internet. With a wireless internet system throughout the school, teachers can be assured that their students can find a way to access First Class allowing for a more technologically based interaction.

Wi-Fi would also decrease the strain on the library's resources and in turn increase the amount of work students can do within school during their free blocks or study halls. When asked about the possibility of student Wi-Fi, one of the librarians, Ms. Anderson, stated that student Wi-Fi in the library "would be good because not only would it decrease the rush for computers, but also because students feel more comfortable with their own computers and have their own work on their own computers."

From a student's perspective the benefits of Wi-Fi seemed to be plentiful, but there are some technological issues with Wi-Fi. According to Ms. Anderson, "the biggest problem for implementing Wi-Fi is bandwidth. Even now we have to get kids not to use YouTube because it collapses our bandwidth and everyone runs slower."

"Wi-Fi would take a burden off of 'on-paper' assignments. Students could check their teacher's blog."

In addition to some technological issues, there would also be some administrative problems. The new cell phone policy is being utilized partly in an effort to prevent cheating, and with Wi-Fi access throughout the school, 3G phones could go on chat sites anywhere in the school. Rather than helping to prevent cheating, this would add another loophole for cheaters.

But the benefits should outweigh this small possible conflict. As Liam Gandelsman, the School Committee Student Representative said, "I don't see this impacting the cell phone policy that much because I feel that unless students start using laptops more and more, the use of communication with devices such as iPod Touches, or other Wi-Fi enabled devices that are pocketable wouldn't be very widespread except during studies, which doesn't really affect anything because that isn't when there is a class going on."

Liam Gandelsman also stated that "[the School Committee] talked about blocking social network sites such as Facebook and MySpace," which would limit the misuse of the wireless internet.

It seems that even though there are some downfalls to having Student Wi-Fi, the School Committee wants to implement it in Lexington High School. Representative Gandelsman said that "The director of student technology, Thomas Plati, had a team of consultants check out all 9 buildings and estimate the cost of having Wi-Fi in all of them.

That is part of a long-term plan but they are trying to get it to happen for next year.

This dedication bodes well for the student body, and will hopefully result in the implementation in the near future. Wi-Fi throughout the school will allow students to be more productive during study halls. It will also mean that the communication between the teacher and their students will also increase. This outweighs the possible negative consequences.

The sweet story behind recently opened *Cake*

By Nikita Nadkarni
Features Editor

In her senior year of high school, Michelle Ryan saw the object that would inspire her future career as the founder of the local bakery, Cake. It was a cake, of course, shaped like a jack-in-the-box. She immediately knew she wanted to become a cake chef.

Ryan began baking lessons when she was six. After coming home from elementary school each day, Ryan would immediately go to her neighbor's house where she learned to make a variety of sweets, from traditional ice cream floats to full-sized cakes and candy. She continued to take lessons until she was twelve, when her neighbor unfortunately passed away. Until she saw the jack-in-the-box cake that fateful day, she had given up on baking.

"The first real cake I made was for my brother's wedding," she recounts. "And there were pencils in it." Lacking the proper equipment and dowels to hold the cake together, Ryan used whatever she could find to reinforce the cake. "It looked nice," she remembers. "I'm not too sure how good it tasted though."

Ryan stuck with her dream to become a baker. She continued to work at several bakeries, gaining experience and ideas for her own recipes. During this period, Ryan first visited Lexington while meeting a friend for a stroll around the center. "I was smitten," she says enthusiastically. "The area was perfect for what I had envisioned. I wanted my shop to look like it belonged in a small town on the Cape." The center, she felt, had the same feel to it.

Ten years later, she found the perfect place for her dream shop. She looked around a variety of places in the center, until she finally came upon the picturesque white house in which Cake now resides. She designed its décor herself, carefully taking into consideration her own vision for the store. "I wanted to be happy to be in it and to also be appealing. It had to be what the customer wanted." She finally opened her store on August 22nd, 2009.

Ryan then created her cupcake recipes through experimentation, often recalling the lessons she learned from her first baking teacher, her old neighbor. She created the menu herself, trying to make a variety of flavors and combinations that would appeal to all of her customers. She often adds new flavors as well as trying out recipes. Each month she creates a special 'Flavor of the Month.' "I design it depending on what is seasonable," Ryan explains. "It's a process of trial and error and I only use the ones I like." She recommends her chocolate cake but is also extremely pleased with her white cake. "I can't hardly not resist it," she says with a smile. "It has this great sugary crust."

Staff photo by Nikita Nadkarni
Cake enthusiast Michelle Ryan works at her new Lexington bakery making classic and innovative sweets.

For now, she plans to stick with cake but is debating whether or not to add other similar products to the menu such as a Swedish Tea Ring and whoopee pie. For Christmas, she hopes to offer Buche de Noel. "I think if you stick

CAKE cont. on **PAGE 2**

Foreign language teachers find Activboards fun and engaging

By Abby Heingartner
Layout Coordinator

Reasons for students dozing off in class can range from "downright boredom" to "after-school activities," to "too much homework". Some teachers successfully keep students' eyelids from drooping with lively discussion, interactive activities, or even surprise assessments. Others are more tolerant of students resting their heads on their desk. Fortunately, a number of foreign language teachers at LHS have discovered a sure-fire way to wake students up: by getting an ActivBoard.

Not to be confused with the Smart Boards present in several math classrooms, the ActivBoard is described on its website as "the greatest educational show on earth." Currently, four foreign language teachers at LHS have a total of three ActivBoards.

"The board has three components," said Latin teacher Dr. Michael Fiveash. "It displays what's on your computer screen…it's touch sensitive…and [the software] enables you to make documents called flipcharts." Flipcharts can contain text, images, audio, and video, and can be used for such purposes as studying vocabulary, learning grammar, and playing games.

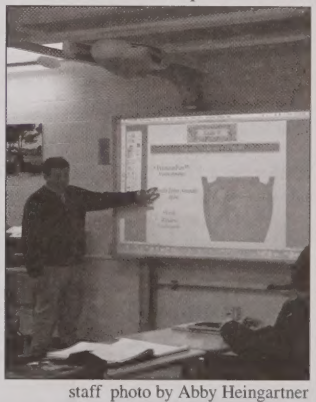
So what makes the ActivBoard more likely to keep students awake than the average white or blackboard? "Because you bring the technology in, they think it's the coolest thing ever," said Italian teacher Ms. Annalisa Trombetta. "It's engaging; it's different."

The ActivBoard certainly is different. With the flick of a stylus, foreign words can zoom across a virtual page to join their picture counterparts, or hidden text can be dramatically revealed. Sentences can be built using color-coded verbs, subjects, and direct objects, and hand-written text can be added if the teacher needs to elaborate on a topic. A passage of writing can be displayed on the board to be translated, annotated, or just read. A single click can wipe a page clean of its contents, or save them for later reference or distribution.

French teacher Ms. Karen Girondel noted that in addition to making students more attentive, it also helps them learn more effectively. "Language-learning is so visual… if you can visualize it, you're going to remember it better… [and the ActivBoard] provides a way in which they can see what they're trying to learn," she said. "This generation of kids has grown up with everything being visual– they expect it." Ms. Girondel cited the benefits of using the board for learning new words,"we don't ever have to use English." And when studying the more complex specifics of grammar, "you can take [the elements] apart, and put [them] back together."

The list of positive attributions seem endless. "It's like an open window to a new country," said Italian teacher Ms. Paola Dorfmann of the ActivBoard. "It stays with them, because it's a unique experience.

If ActivBoards are so wonderful, why don't all the teachers have them? Unfortunately, it is because each ActivBoard costs between six and seven-thousand dollars. The first two ActivBoards at LHS were purchased with the generous help of the Lexington Education Foundation.



staff photo by Abby Heingartner
Dr. Fiveash makes grammar interesting by incorporating the ActivBoard in his class.

"LEF is a non-profit group in town run by volunteers," said Dr. Fiveash.

"[It funds projects that] the school would have trouble paying for." When

ACTIVBOARDS cont. on **PAGE 2**

Response to community farm positive

By Mia Karnofsky
Editor-in-Chief

It is not rare to see several interests vying for a piece of land in Lexington. But the competition for the eight-acre Busa Family Farm is different from the usual competition of developers and contractors. Since the town purchased the land for over $4 million with Community Preservation funds last spring, groups have advocated several uses. These include making new sports fields, building low-income housing, and maintaining its current use by converting the private farm into a community farm.

This last proposal was perhaps the least expected, but it has garnered much attention in the last several months. Lexington Community Farm Coalition (LCFC), the group sponsoring the idea, has collected 1500 signatures, 950 of which are from Lexington residents, on a petition to bring to the town government. LCFC states its mission as "providing fresh, local produce and hands-on educational opportunities" through a community supported agriculture system.

The town is currently leasing the land to the Busa family, under a contract that will last until April, 2011. In spite of the long waiting period, LCFC is actively engaging members of the community to support the community farm option.

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First musical concert of the school year starts the season on a good note

By Shreya Thatai
Staff Writer

On October 29th, as the year opened with a performance from the talented honors music program, the audience had its first chance to see the many newly refurbished attributes of Gillespie Auditorium. With the generous work of FOLMADS– Friends of Lexington Music, Art, and Drama Students– the fine arts department has received a new wireless microphone, allowing for Mr. Leonard's traditional speech before each performance, along with a forestage and new lighting on the balconies. The auditorium seems to have a brighter glow these days.

The Madrigals were first on stage. Dressed in tuxedos and black dresses buckled around the chest they began without the skillful assistance of the new choral instructor, Mr. Jason Iannuzzi. "He definitely knows what he's doing," said concert choir member Rory McGloin. Their second piece, "Three French Chansons," with its slow, yet flowing melody entranced the audience. Their final performance was a counterpart piece, "Jenny Kissed Me" between the men and women's dynamic vocal ranges.

Afterwards, the Concert Choir came onto the risers. In a sea of various corsets and dresses, the red neckties of the boys shone bright. A hole in the group stuck out in the mid-left side of the risers, where the Madrigal singers were previously. Their rapid performance of "Veniki" was a sharp contrast to their second song, one with a long ballad intro between violinist Rachel Iba and pianist Connor Stumpf's performances. The gap in the choir was filled when the Madrigals came back on stage to complete the "full choir", bringing a fulfilling sound of harmony between the experienced Madrigals and the Concert Choir.

After a short intermission, the Honors Orchestra took the stage, led by Ms. Janet Haas. The orchestra played three pieces which all had beautiful blended harmonies. "Illusions," the second piece, highlighted different sections of the ensemble and captivated the audience with a calm and serene melody.

Finally, the Wind Ensemble set up on the stage. The first piece, "The Immovable Do," was very pleasing, with a certain melody being played by different instruments. Their second piece, "Variations on a Korean Folk Song," was impressive, waking the audience up with sudden bursts of intense energy. Their last piece, "VooDoo," stole the show and was a fun finale. Atmospheric lighting and eerie sound effects accompanied the instruments. Near the end of the song, many of the members of the ensemble ran out into the audience and waved flashlights to create scary shadows. The piece captured the feelings felt around the end of October and was a fantastic ending to a wonderful show.

The Producers anything but a flop

By Chris Alessandrini
A&E Editor

It has become a well-known fact that a play at Lexington High School is, more often than not, comparable to anything off- (or even on) Broadway. This fact is made only more exciting when one considers the price of the tickets: $10-$15 a seat. With entertainment as ample and satisfying as this, who needs to head downtown? Just hop over to Gillespie Auditorium and you'll be plenty satisfied.

Staff photo by Chris Alessandrini

Leo Bloom (senior James Swanson, left) and Max Bialystock (junior Jeremy Brick, right) sift through hundreds of manuscripts before finding the worst play of all time: "Springtime for Hitler."

After the weighty series of productions over the past few years, it was refreshing to behold a comedy as intelligent, politically incorrect, and gloriously flippant as "The Producers." In fact, "The Producers" works so well precisely because its cast is so willing to enter the realm of the infinitely offensive, bulldozing taboos with giddy abandon and evident delight at every chance they get.

Junior Jeremy Brick, playing failed Broadway producer Max Bialystock, is a riot. He delivers his lines with uproarious aplomb and every zinger he mutters under his breath had the audience in hysterics. Senior James Swanson is equally entertaining as the spineless accountant Leo Bloom who just wants to slip away from his miserable existence and become a Broadway producer. The two hatch an outlandish plan to make a fortune by– how else– putting on a flop. But wait– how does that work? Well, if they raise $2 million for a $100,000 production and the show flops, their investors won't expect any money back and they'll be home free in Rio for the rest of their lives. The only way their foolproof plan could possibly fail is if they put on a hit. Thus, they undergo an odyssey to find and produce the worst show Broadway has ever seen– namely, "Springtime for Hitler," penned by the precariously psychotic Nazi Fräulein Liebkind (played with bona fide gusto by senior Lucia Ferguson).

Along the way, they encounter a leggy Swedish secretary named Ulla (senior Rachel Iba, a luminescent presence on the stage); the garishly tacky director Roger deBris (junior Jackson Thea) whom they hire to helm the production; a myriad of elderly, sexually active philanthropists; and Roger deBris' scene-stealing assistant, Carmen Ghia (sophomore Luke Johnson).

Every part is perfectly cast, a testament to the rigorous auditions held earlier this fall. Each actor embodies their part so fully that we begin to forget that these are our fellow schoolmates, the people we pass in the hall or share a class with.

Technically speaking, the show was solid. The sets were full of character (the office of Max Bialystock, in particular, was perfectly designed); the orchestra once again played mellifluously; and the tech crew did a great job with the wireless microphones this year, as well as with the lighting and the costumes. Of course, none of this would have been possible without boundless help from director Steven Bogart, musical director Jeffrey Leonard, vocal director Jason Ianuzzi, and choreographer Anne Carey.

What's most remarkable is that the cast, crew, and pit all managed to come together as a team in such a short period of time to create a piece of high-caliber entertainment. And they make it look easy. Judging from the innumerable whispered awes and laughter that erupted throughout the auditorium, it would be fair to come to the conclusion that "The Producers" was anything but a flop.

Band night is a positive for both students and the earth

By Noah Star
Op/Ed Editor

On the night of November 13, the Global Warming Action Committee hosted a very successful band night. The show featured bands from every grade, the list including bands like The Symptoms, High Off You, Aversion, Jeffrey Terrace, Or Nothing, The Caterwaulers, Ayan Sanyal, One Inch Higher and Cosmic Dust, Hungry Beast. Euphoria also made an appearance, giving us a prelude to Fall Jam.

The event was a delightful surprise and it showed the depth of talent here at Lexington High School. Every band had a raucous cheering section, and all of the bands seemed to enjoy playing music and listening to the other bands. Sungwoo Jeoung, guitarist and vocalist in the band Aversion, remarked "Band Night was a good way to meet new people and listen to your fellow musician friends play music."

People not only enjoyed the music but also the fact that all the money spent would go towards building a bicycle rack, moving Lexington High closer to becoming a "green" school. Rebecca Zola, a sophomore, commented "It was great getting to hang out with friends while getting to see people I know show their musical skills and it was cool that the money went to bike racks, since we definitely could use some more of those."

"Band Night was a good way to meet new people and listen to your fellow musicians play music."

The success of the Band Night will hopefully push Lexington High School into a brighter future with not only a better environment but with more in school events like band nights. Ben Berners-Lee, lead guitarist and pianist of the Symptoms said "I applaud the GWAC for the exceptional organization, hard work, and dedication that was made so obvious at the Band night. The local talent featured at the event was entertaining and quite enjoyable. Events like these are a great way to strengthen the musical community and build bonds within the student body. I would hope that similar events lie ahead, and that bands like my own will again be able to showcase their musical talent later this year."

Hopefully, the administration also enjoyed Band Night, and saw the benefits of having similar in-school events. The Global Warming Action Committee did a wonderful job and the bands and the audience all had a great time.

Wrestling both a solo, team sport for students

By Sam Jacob
Sports Editor

Wrestling, one of Lexington's winter sports, specifically popular among the male population of the student body, is not all about throwing punches and pinning opponents to the ground. One of this year's captains, junior Charles Jackan, agreed to talk to *The Musket* about the school's Division 1 Central wrestling team, and what they're really about.

Coached by Mr. Lawrence David (history deparmtnet) and Mr. Andrew Baker (English department), the wrestling team starts the week after Thanksgiving. Compared to other sports, wrestling is "unique because there aren't tryouts to pick the varsity team," Jackan said.

Wrestlers are divided into weight classes, and then it is decided which wrestlers will wrestle varsity at their weight class. The team goes through "wrestle offs, in which all the wrestlers at a weight class wrestle." Jackan, who has been on the wrestling team since freshman year, states that Coach David and Coach Baker are "knowledgeable about the sport" and are "fun to be around, but they do let us know when we need to work."

During last year's season, 2009 LHS graduate senior Joe Decarlo, at 189 pounds, brought home the "'All-State Champion'" title. Arlington is one of Lexington's "pretty intense rivals," but unfortunately could not be placed in the match schedule for this season.

A lot of people associate the words "wrestling" with World Wrestling Entertainment and Smackdown, but Jackan believes the Lexington team is "both an individual and a team sport in which any person of any size can compete." During a meet, one wrestler per weight class wrestles the opposing team's wrestler. A key term is a pin, which is an automatic win regardless of score.

Jackan explains that the goal in wrestling is "to pin your opponent by holding his shoulder blades on the mat for a 3-count," thereby earning 6 points for the wrestler's team. A "decision" is "a win by fewer than 8 points," giving the team 3 points. A "major decision" is "a win by more than

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Lexington High School brothers have come a long way since leaving Ethiopia

By John Bernstein
Sports Editor

On most Sunday afternoons, Amanuel Abate was at home, watching with admiration as his kinsmen took the world by storm in the sport for which his country is renowned: long-distance running.

"I often laughed to myself, saying how I could never be a runner," recalls Abate. "They were just too fast."

Meanwhile, Dawit Katz was spending his weekends running to a field to play "football" (in American terms, soccer) with his friends — a seven-mile excursion each way.

"I always loved to run with my friends," remembers Katz, "But never thought I'd do it for competition."

Abate and Katz didn't know each other at the time, and besides a vague interest in running, the only characteristic they shared was a common Ethiopian heritage.

Two years and over 8,000 miles across the world later, however, both set foot in the United States for the first time. And a few months later, the two were adopted by the same family: Abate and Katz had become brothers.

Although they disagree on a number of issues, the pair agrees that the difference between American and Ethiopian education was a large shift.

"The Ethiopian education system didn't base a student's grade level on age, like the US does," explains Abate. "It based it on the number of years you'd been in school."

Thus, when 14-year old Abate enrolled at Boston Community Leadership Academy, he was instantly placed in ninth grade; Abate had skipped all of middle school.

"My first few weeks were tough," continues Abate. "I couldn't even speak English. I couldn't understand what my teachers said, and had trouble making friends."

Abate responded to the adversity with a fierce determination. Through hard work and persistence, Abate learned to speak fluent English in, impressively, two short months. Katz accomplished the feat in a mere four months, during his freshman year at LHS.

In the spring of 2009, Katz resolved to return to the running roots he had developed on the football field back home, and joined the LHS track team.

"I wanted to do something besides go to school everyday," says Katz. "I had always liked running, and thought track would be a good way to make new friends."

Happy to have a new teammate, especially one from the mythic runner's haven of Ethiopia, teammates had an instant fondness for Katz. His toothy grin and playful antics made him one of the best-liked athletes on the squad. Katz was also a quick success on the track, posting a 10:57 2-mile time, the best by any freshman in the Middlesex League that year.

File photo

Dawit Katz (left) and Amanuel Abate (right) have found a home in LHS's running community.

At about the same time, Abate joined the Brighton track and field squad (BCLA didn't have a team). To his (and his entire team's) pleasant surprise, Abate was an instant sensation, winning nearly all of his races and placing second at the all-city championship with a 4:57 mile.

And yet, Abate wasn't satisfied. "I liked running," explains Abate, "But Brighton had few runners. I needed to run for a school that had lots, like me. I wanted some to be better than me, so that I could learn from them and improve."

At his brother's prodding, Abate entered LHS in the fall of 2009, and ran cross-country for the first time. He had a terrific season as a junior, running his way to the #5 spot on Lexington's varsity roster. Katz, also in his first cross-country season, was a consistent #8 for the Minutemen.

"LHS is great," says Abate as he smiles. "The kids are really fun, really kind. I've never felt more at home."

"I look forward to running every day," says Katz. "Not just because I like the sport, but because I like the people."

In a world where the powerful wage war on one another for personal gain and the rich keep their wealth locked away from the needy, stories like those of Abate and Katz are refreshing. Through great struggle and pure intentions, the brothers have created new lives for themselves. When asked what they plan to do after high school, Katz and Abate answer in unison:

"College."

Who is Dr. Harold Crumb?

By Jonah Bader
Copy Editor

We are all familiar with Lexington High School's football field. We have played on it, watched our football team play a game on it, or have at the very least walked past it on the way to gym class. Some may have noticed that the scoreboard reads "Dr. Harold Crumb Field".

But just who was Dr. Harold Crumb? And why is our football field named after him? His 1982 obituary in the Lexington Minuteman said that he was "known to thousands of Lexington High School students and alumni," yet few today know who he was.

As one of its charter members, Crumb was heavily involved in the Lexington Lions Club. He acted as president of the service club organization from 1937-1939.

"The field is named after him because he was the team doctor for the football team," said Richard Michelson. Mr. Michelson, of Michelson's Shoes, is a longtime member of the Lexington Lions Club, and he personally knew Dr. Crumb.

Crumb conducted physicals for varsity athletes at Lexington High School and was on the bench at almost every football game in order to treat injuries. He meticulously followed up on even the most minor injuries. As Mr. Michelson stated, Crumb "probably never took money" for the job, working as a volunteer.

In a broader way, Dr. Crumb was in fact "the physician for the Lexington schools for more than 45 years, handling student physicals and acting as a consultant with the nursing staff," according to his obituary.

Outside Lexington High School, Dr. Crumb was a general practitioner who served the Lexington community for almost 50 years. He was affiliated with Symmes Hospital in Arlington, which closed in 1999, and "was instrumental in many hospital development projects."

Crumb had four children and many grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Mr. Michelson recalled that Crumb was "a nice guy, a personable man."

Dr. Crumb continued to be involved with the Lexington Schools until his death on October 15, 1982. A moment of silence was observed at the game following his death, and the football field was named in memoriam.

Molly will be missed

By Caiti Zeytoonian
Op/Ed Editor

The hearts of Lexington were forever changed on October 21, 2009, when Molly Elizabeth Eisenberg passed away at the young age of 19. Molly's death was a result of a long, difficult battle with ovarian cancer, but her life was an inspirational tale that touched those who were fortunate enough to know her as well as those who knew only of her story.

Molly graduated from Lexington High School in 2008. She was involved in drama and in student council, and she had a passionate spirit for life. As the captain of the LHS volleyball team, Molly motivated her teammates with love and encouragement.

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